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Dodd's Ex-Aide Goes On Stand Again Today

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Having weathered its first controversy—over the “stigma” of more than 4,000 documents removed from the files of Sen. Thomas J. Dodd and copied—the Senate Ethics Committee turned today to new cross-examination of the senator's former administrative assistant.

James P. Boyd Jr., Dodd's top aide until a year ago, returns to the witness stand for a second day of testimony behind closed doors amid indications that the misconduct charges against Dodd may soon be aired in public hearings.

Questioning of Boyd, Dodd's one-time “alter ego,” is expected to be completed today and Sen. John C. Stennis, D-Miss., the committee chairman, says there is a chance of public hearings later this week.

The six-man bipartisan committee is concentrating the first phase of its hearings on the relationship between Dodd and Julius Klein, a Chicago public relations man registered as a foreign agent for West German business interests.

Position Misuse Charged

Newspaper columnists Drew Pearson and Jack Anderson, who first leveled the misconduct charges against Dodd in late January, have said that Dodd misused his position as a senator to make a 1964 trip to Germany in an effort to help Klein hold a \$150,000-a-year public relations account.

Although Dodd, accompanied by four lawyers, was present throughout yesterday's opening five-hour session, Klein was not. Klein's office said he was in Europe and Stennis said no subpoena had yet been issued for his appearance.



JAMES P. BOYD JR.
Fights Ex-Boss

-AP

“We will make a decision when we come to it,” Stennis said when newsmen asked if Klein would testify.

Stennis, in an opening statement distributed to reporters, said the committee had found that more than 4,000 documents had been removed and copied from Dodd's files. He added:

“... The committee feels that the copies of such papers are sufficiently stigmatized so as to preclude their use as evidence here,” he said.

Any Variances to Be Probed

By late afternoon, however, Stennis called reporters into the committee room to offer “certain clarification” of the statement. He explained:

“Since the admissibility of the 4,000 documents taken from Sen. Dodd's office was at least in question, the committee considered that it had the duty to secure all documents and facts

obtainable, independent of these 4,000 copies . . .

“This is what we are doing. If the original documents obtained (from Dodd) are at variance, or do not include all documents taken from Sen. Dodd's office with respect to the matters before the committee, we will inquire into such variance.”

Other committee sources said the documents were being used as “leads” for committee investigators seeking the originals. Dodd has supplied the committee with about 250 documents, they said.

Stennis also disclosed that the committee probably would investigate other charges against Dodd, including allegations that he siphoned campaign funds into personal bank accounts.

Tax Question Up to IRS

But he said the question of whether Dodd had complied with federal income tax laws in reporting all his income was “beyond our jurisdiction” and would be left to the Internal Revenue Service, which has opened an investigation.

Dodd declined to talk to reporters as he entered and left the hearing room during the day, but Boyd, 37, spoke at length and said he was “very pleased” with the first day's progress.

Printed committee rules called for cross-examination only through written inquiries submitted to the committee's counsel, but Stennis relaxed the rule to allow John F. Sonnett, Dodd's attorney, to question Boyd directly.

Asked if Boyd would have the right to direct cross-examination, Stennis said “he hasn't asked for it.”

Outside the hearing room, Boyd was sharply critical of his former employer, charging that Dodd was guilty of “a very grave case of misconduct in the performance of his duty.”